

**Psychiatric-Neurologic Examination Methods**, by Dr. August Wimmer. Authorized translation by Andrew W. Hoisholt, M. D. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1919.

A guide for students and practitioners in the examination of psychopathic patients, translated from the Danish.

The 177 pages are nearly equally divided between the psychic and the physical examination. Ordinarily one is accustomed to complain of the padding in books offered. Here it is a question if there be not too much condensation, particularly in the first or psychic part. What may be an excellent aide mémoire for the adept, may leave the tyro bewildered. For instance, Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter II, would have been better for a little more amplification.

The second part concludes with examination of the spinal fluid. Technic is given for puncture, cell count, and albumin determination. As usual, Nonne is undeservedly given credit for the ammonium sulphate test for globulin. The nine illustrations are rather primitive. None the less, barring a few minor criticisms, the book is one to commend heartily. Hitherto there has been no equivalent for it in English, and thanks are due Dr. Hoisholt for making it available. E. W. T.

**Home Dietician**. By Belle Wood-Comstock. 221 pages. Pasadena, 1919.

This little book is written apparently with the idea of furnishing the housewife the latest ideas on dietetics in a semi-popular or newspaper reporter style. We doubt very much whether this mixture of quotations from McCollum, Lusk and James Whitcomb Riley is justifiable. It would seem that a person with sufficient interest, intelligence and application to digest this book with its interlarding of poetry and fiction might just as well read the really authoritative and more fascinating books of McCollum, Sherman or Lusk. It would seem also that she who proposes to teach should be surer of her facts than is Dr. Comstock. For instance, on page 29 her description of a caloric as the amount of heat required to raise a pound of water 4° F. or 1° C. is neither scientific nor accurate. It is not "doubtless" that the body makes its internal secretions, digestive enzymes, etc., out of the vitamins. We will not admit that "chronic disease is largely due to defective food analysis in the body" and that "these conditions are all preventable." Neither do we believe that "of the flesh food eaten, one-tenth to one-seventh putrefies or rots in the intestines."

It seems unfortunate that a book intended for the layman should contain so many unsubstantiated statements, all calculated to fill him with a dread of the horrors of auto-intoxication. The section on flesh food with its description of slaughter houses and maggots is also plainly intended to disgust the reader and to force him to live on green vegetables and raw fruits. The author wisely warns against fads in dietetics but unwisely appears to have taken up several herself. She has great faith that a low protein intake, with much raw food, green vegetables and whole wheat will cure the chronic ills of the flesh. She is so enthusiastic about whole wheat and bran that she advises her readers to buy a hand mill so as to be sure that none of the indigestible husk is lost. Her enthusiasm for green vegetables leads her in her discussion of vitamins rather to obscure the fact that the main sources of fat soluble are butter, milk and egg yolk. Most of these faddists who believe that health comes through getting back to "nature foods" which they assume nourished our fur-clad ancestors, should do some reading. They might learn that primitive man was, and generally is today, a

hunter living on meat. They might also with profit commit to memory McCollum's statement that his studies have "made it clear that food packages just as they come from the hand of Nature are not necessarily so constituted."

W. C. A.

## County Societies

### ALAMEDA COUNTY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Staff of The Samuel Merritt Hospital was held at the Hospital on the evening of Dec. 1, 1919. A paper entitled "Things That Make for Success in Gynecology" was read by Dr. Wm. S. Porter. The general theme of the paper was that obvious one, frequently lost sight of, that in all relations, the patient's interests should be kept more prominently in mind by the gynecologist than such benefits as he may personally expect to derive. It was a wholesome paper, reflecting the well-balanced views of many years of experience and success.

An instructive paper concerning the physician's relation to the Industrial Compensation Commission was read by Dr. Morton Gibbons.

Dr. W. A. Clark has but recently returned from Rochester.

Dr. W. A. Clark has but recently returned from a visit to the Mayo Clinic.

Dr. Jau Don Ball entertained the following guests at dinner at the Hotel Oakland before the Meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association, Nov. 17, 1919: Dr. Fred Clark, superintendent State Hospital, Stockton; Virgil E. Dickson, Ph. D., Director of the Bureau of Research and Guidance for the Public Schools of Oakland and Berkeley, Calif.; Dr. W. C. Rappleye, U. C. Med. School, S. F.; Dr. J. T. Adams, formerly from the Boston Psychopathic Hospital; Drs. W. H. Streitmenn, H. G. Thomas, J. L. Lohse, P. H. Buteau, L. P. Adams, Dr. Pauline S. Nusbaumer and August Vollmer, Chief of Police, Berkeley.

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County Medical Meeting, Nov. 6, 1919, Friday Morning Club Hall.**

The president of the society, Dr. Wm. T. McArthur, with some pleasant remarks about the beautiful new quarters, opened the session and introduced Dr. Hugh Crouse of El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Crouse spoke on "Chronic Duodenal Dilatation: Its Concomitant and Sequential Pathology." He illustrated the subject by means of fifty pen and ink drawings. Dr. Lobingier discussed the various conditions presented.

#### "Chronic Duodenal Dilatation: Its Concomitant and Sequential Pathology."

HUGH CROUSE, M. D., F. A. C. S.

Read before the Los Angeles County Medical Society, Nov. 6, 1919, Friday Morning Club Hall of the Los Angeles Medical Society.

The above subject was handled from embryological, histological, physiological and anatomical viewpoints. The subject matter, wherever possible so to do, was jointly, verbally and pictorially presented. Sixty-five slides reproducing pen and ink, wash drawings and X-ray pictures, were projected subsequent to the paper's reading.

The salient features of the paper were that chronic duodenal dilatation was a common, not a rare condition; that such, no doubt, preceded the major portions of acute gastro-duodenal dilatation cases; that there is abundant clinical evidence refuting recent laboratory conclusions of the non-essential of the duodenum; that comparative physiological studies showing the carnivorous with a scattered Brunner gland condition; the herbivorous-carnivorous with a more closely grouped gland